

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231, on:

Date:

Dec. 19, 2001

By:

[Signature]

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Hooper, et al.

SERIAL No.: 09/938,439

FILED: August 23, 2001

FOR: **MULTIPLE-SITE SAMPLE-HANDLING  
APPARATUS AND METHOD**

EXAMINER: Unknown

ART UNIT: 1743

5/A  
CA.  
5/8/02

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**AMENDMENT**

**In the Specification:**

On page 1, please replace the paragraph starting on line 4 with the following:

[Handwritten line]  
This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application for Multiple-Site Reaction Device and Method, Serial No. 09/788,209, filed Feb. 16, 2001, now pending; which claims the priority of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/183,626, filed February 18, 2000, now abandoned, which are both incorporated herein by reference in their entirety  
[Handwritten line]

AM